



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/705,186	11/10/2003	Michael J.G. Gleissner	6378P002	4657
8791	7590	02/06/2006	EXAMINER	
BLAKELY SOKOLOFF TAYLOR & ZAFMAN 12400 WILSHIRE BOULEVARD SEVENTH FLOOR LOS ANGELES, CA 90025-1030			MOSSER, KATHLEEN MICHELE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3715	

DATE MAILED: 02/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/705,186	GLEISSNER ET AL.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Kathleen Mosser	3715

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 November 2005.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 51-68 and 89 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 51-68 and 89 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
 Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
 6) Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

In response to the appeal brief filed 11/29/2005, claims 51-69 and 89 are pending.

1. In view of the appeal brief filed on 11/29/2005, PROSECUTION IS HEREBY REOPENED. A new grounds of rejection is set forth below.

To avoid abandonment of the application, appellant must exercise one of the following two options:

(1) file a reply under 37 CFR 1.111 (if this Office action is non-final) or a reply under 37 CFR 1.113 (if this Office action is final); or,

(2) initiate a new appeal by filing a notice of appeal under 37 CFR 41.31 followed by an appeal brief under 37 CFR 41.37. The previously paid notice of appeal fee and appeal brief fee can be applied to the new appeal. If, however, the appeal fees set forth in 37 CFR 41.20 have been increased since they were previously paid, then appellant must pay the difference between the increased fees and the amount previously paid.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 51, 54, 55, and 89 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Kaminski et al (US 5273433). Kaminski et al teaches a method including the steps of: presenting an original content including at least one of video or audio content originally produced primarily for purposes other than language learning (col. 3: 1-3); providing assistance to a user to facilitate language learning (the subtitles, or the written text, col. 2: 27-30); observing an activity of the user, inferring the extent of knowledge of a language of the user and automatically adjusting the form of assistance to the user (col.

Art Unit: 3715

2: 44-47), as in **claims 51 and 89**. Playing the original content associated with a plurality of sequential words wherein the length and starting point of the sequence of words is responsive to a user input (**claim 54**) or wherein the speed of the playback is adjusted responsive to a user input (**claim 55**) is shown in col. 2: 21-23 and 30-33.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

3. Claims 52, 53 and 63 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminski et al (US 5273433) in view of Sameth et al (US 5882202). Kaminski fails to explicitly teach: delivering the original content with an additional content via a same (**claim 52**) or different (**claim 53**) digital medium, where the additional content includes a text database of the words present within the original content and information about the words (**claims 52 and 53**); providing additional content that includes an index of words spoken in the original content, providing a library of audible pronunciations for a plurality of words in the index and playing the pronunciation in response to a user input (**claim 63**). Sameth teaches a method and system for language instruction using popular television series (col. 4: 27-33). The invention of Sameth includes a Dictionary, which contains each word of the contained in the story and a definition (additional information) of the terms. Sameth further includes teaches the use of a user selectable "lip

Art Unit: 3715

icons" which include an animated enunciation an audible response for any word in the content (see col. 3: 53-59). The system of Sameth is taught as being programmed on a CD-Rom which constitutes a common digital medium. Sameth fails to teach the use of a separate digital medium for the additional content, however, it is the examiner position that this feature represents a mere re-arrangement of parts. The content of Sameth could just as easily be split to include some information installed on the hard drive of the computer and the rest contained on the CD-Rom and would not alter the functionality of the system. See MPEP 2144.04. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the features of the Sameth invention with the invention of Kaminski so as to include a full dictionary of all available words include proper enunciations and definitions, as such features would allow the user to ascertain the correct pronunciations and definitions of the words.

4. Claims 56-58 and 62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminski et al (US 5273433) in view of Sameth et al (US 5882202) further in view of Tallal et al (US 6071123). In addition to the above Sameth et al teaches the ability for a user to toggle between normal and slow speech so as to allow the user to more easily understand the pronunciation (col. 6: 15-22, the "Icons" description). However, neither Kaminski et al or Sameth et al teach: adjusting a pitch of audible playback in relation to the speed of playback (**claims 56 and 62**); adjusting a time-spacing between audible words in the playback in relation to the speed (**claims 57 and 62**), wherein the words between the time spaces have their original pitch and speech rate (**claim 58**). Tallal et al teaches a method for use in speech development which includes the ability to alter a speech pattern so as to make it better understood by the user. Tallal et al teaches pitch adjustment, time spacing adjustments, and speech rate adjustments in at least col. 4: 26-48 and col. 10: 29-58. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the speech processing algorithms of Tallal et al into the speed features of Kaminski as modified by Sameth so as to allow the user to more readily understand the words and phrases being played to the user, as suggested by Tallal et al.

Art Unit: 3715

5. Claims 59-61 and 64-66 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminski et al (US 5273433) in view of Siefert (US 5904485). Kaminski teaches all features of the invention as shown above, but fails to teach: automatically pausing the content during playback at a point and for a duration based on the extent of knowledge (**claim 59**); automatically offering an additional content during a pause based on the extent of the knowledge (**claim 60**); prompting a user to indicate if they desire more or less assistance (**claim 61**); analyzing at least one of a user input, a context of the user input, a database of original content, a database of an additional content, and a database of user information to identify information of interest in relation to a segment of the original content (**claims 64 and 65**), presenting the information of interest prior to playing the segment (**claim 64**), or prompting the user for an additional input, the additional input to cause a further modification of the playback (**claim 65**); and providing a link to content accessible across a distributed network (**claim 66**). Siefert teaches an computer based educational program in which all information is sent through a network (see Figure 1). The system presents information to user both before and during the presentation based upon a user profile (see Figure 2). A user help selection is shown in Figure 3 and further in Figure 4 where breaks in the learning material to present additional or remedial material are shown. See also, col. 2: 39- 67. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to incorporate the features of Siefert with the computer embodiment of Kaminski so as to allow the user to have personalized help materials commensurate with the users' knowledge level.

6. Claims 67 and 68 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kaminski et al (US 5273433) in view of Lotvin et al (US 5907831). Kaminski et al teaches all aspects of the claimed invention as shown above, but fails to teach: controlling access to at least one of content and functions based upon rights granted to the user (**claim 67**) or wherein rights are granted based on payments received (**claim 68**). Lotvin et al teaches a computer based educational system, which offers a variety of educational products. The system includes the use of user accounts where a parent user makes payments and assigns permissions for a child user to access specific educational content, see col. 5: 47 – col. 6: 5. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to implement the payment

Art Unit: 3715

features of Lotvin et al with the computer embodiment of the Kaminski et al invention so as to ensure that proper payment was made to the distributing and/or authoring parties of the educational content.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

a. Lee et al (US 6482011) teaches a learning system based on captioning

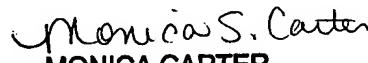
8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kathleen Mosser whose telephone number is (571) 272-4435. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:00-4:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Monica Carter can be reached on (571) 272-4475. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A Supervisory Patent Examiner (SPE) has approved of reopening prosecution by signing below:


Kathleen Mosser
February 1, 2006


MONICA CARTER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER